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BY: Sheila Cogar

DATE: August 11, 2000

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

*8/KP*  
*8/23/00*

In re:	Patent Application of Ekkehardt Schäfer, et al.	: Group Art Unit 1761
Appln. No:	09/415,285	: Examiner: Sherry A. Dauerman
Filed:	October 8, 1999	: Attorney Docket
Title:	FOOD CASING	: No. 8934-47U1
		: (17 680)



**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

It is requested that the enclosed reference(s) listed on the attached Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Patent Examiner in connection with the above-identified application and be made of record therein.

The enclosed references were cited in a European Search Report dated January 31, 2000 (copy enclosed) concerning counterpart European Application No. EP 99 11 9413. The following is a translation of the pertinent portions of the European Search Report, namely the searcher's comments regarding each of the prior art references cited:

The first four references listed in the Search Report are cited as category Y (of particular relevance in connection with another publication of the same category) with respect to claims 1-9 of the application. DE 44 17 244 A is cited for the entire document; DE 39 30 834 A is cited for column 3, lines 15-58 and claims 1-8; WO 97/12758 A is cited for claims 1-28; and WO 98/31731 A is cited for page 3, line 4-page 4, line 17; page 15, line 22-page 16, line 11; and claims 1-39. The remaining five

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references are cited as category A (technological background) with respect to claim 1 of the application. DE 197 29 659 A is cited for the entire document; DE 40 01 131 A is cited for column 3, lines 3-36 and claims 1-10; DE 15 04 982 B is cited for column 7, line 14-column 8, line 10 and claims 1 and 2; DE 23 12 385 A is cited for claims 1-23; and WO 97/36798 A is cited for page 7, lines 14-21; page 8, line 3-page 10, line 26; page 12, lines 1-22; page 13, line 28-page 14, line 14; page 17, line 3-page 19, line 25; page 23, line 23-page 24, line 2; and claims 1-19.

The following fees are being paid by:

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Independent consideration and acknowledgment of the enclosed references are respectfully requested.

**One additional copy of this paper is enclosed for accounting purposes.**

Respectfully submitted,

**EKKEHARDT SCHÄFER, ET AL.**

August 11, 2000  
(Date)

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